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**From:** Adcock, Brad [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7A1B918B7030401FB7421B370B57AE01-BADCOCK]  
**Sent:** 7/17/2017 8:24:09 AM  
**To:** Englert, Jessica M [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a33c0786f7264aa7b1b51432ef5a2415-jmenglert]; Clayton, Justin A [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f2afa2e475324177869595e4b7b2df44-jaclayton]  
**Subject:** FW: Insider for July 17, 2017

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**From:** Hargis, Scarlett W  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 12:10 AM  
**To:** McKinney, William C <William.McKinney@nc.gov>; McLeod, Gregory S <Greg.McLeod@nc.gov>; Adcock, Brad <brad.adcock@nc.gov>; Winstead, Maryscott <Maryscott.Winstead@nc.gov>; Moore, Susan M <Susan.Moore@nc.gov>; Whichard, Jordan <Jordan.Whichard@nc.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Insider for July 17, 2017

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**From:** [insider@ncinsider.com](mailto:insider@ncinsider.com)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 12:08:43 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** NC Insider  
**Subject:** Insider for July 17, 2017

- [Today's Insider \(PDF\)](#)



### **YOU DON'T SAY...**

"If you go back through the courts enough, sooner or later they're going to give you the answer you want."

*Rowan County Commissioner Craig Pierce, on the likelihood that he would vote to appeal a federal court's Friday ruling that Rowan County commissioners' prayer practices were unconstitutional.*

THE SALISBURY POST, 7/14/17

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## News Summary

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### Energy Bill

Energy legislation on North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper's desk presents him with a decision that could force him to choose between buttressing the state's bright solar industry and nurturing its nascent wind power business. The legislation could make solar power production more competitive, and less expensive for Charlotte-based Duke Energy and its customers. Cooper, a Democrat, strongly supported the version that passed the House containing carefully-crafted language hammered out over several months by the nation's largest electric utility, retailers and renewable energy boosters. But Senate Republicans added a 3½-year moratorium on state permits for wind energy projects. They said it would give time to chart acreage where wind turbines hundreds of feet tall should be prohibited for fear of interference with aircraft training from eastern North Carolina military bases. Poorly-sited projects could add to reasons why the Pentagon may scale back its presence, including jobs, in the state.

A compromise with a moratorium through the end of 2018 passed just before the General Assembly adjourned June 30. Cooper has until July 30 to consider the proposal, along with 110 other bills lawmakers left him before leaving Raleigh. If the energy bill becomes law, developers for proposed wind farms in Tyrrell County and in Perquimans and Chowan counties have suggested their projects will halt. Lawmakers "haven't made it easy with the addition of this wind moratorium," Cooper told reporters last week, "because you're essentially trying to pit renewables against each other. Renewable energy is good for North Carolina, it's positive for our economy and we need to be encouraging it, not discouraging it."

The final House vote, with more than a dozen Republicans voting no and a dozen other members absent, suggests a veto of the bill could be upheld when legislators return in early August. The governor can also let a bill become law without his signature. Senate Majority Leader Harry Brown, the moratorium author, said Cooper should sign the measure. Representing the home of Camp Lejeune, Brown said state officials should make the military the priority.

The bill directs a consulting group to complete maps that Brown says will make clear where wind projects won't encroach on the military. "It should give certainty to all of us of where it's OK to build and where it's not," Brown said. The Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense already can step in and require changes when high turbines could get in the way. The military hasn't expressed any opposition publicly to the Chowan-Perquimans or Tyrrell wind farms. The \$500 million in combined investments, along with local tax revenue and jobs, are being needlessly threatened, project executives said. "It's unfortunate that a small number of elected officials were able to hijack what should have been a bright moment for clean energy in North Carolina," said Mark Goodwin, CEO of Apex Clean Energy, which is developing the Chowan-Perquimans project. He said the company "will almost certainly have to suspend" the project if it becomes law.

Brown said he believes wind project executives are bluffing and the moratorium isn't long given that these turbines will turn for decades. The only large wind project currently online in North Carolina is near Elizabeth City, for Amazon to operate its Virginia data centers. Cooper said he would talk to representatives of Duke Energy, the military and wind energy advocates as he deliberates.

Duke Energy estimates the legislation could result in \$850 million in savings for customers over 10 years, as solar energy purchased through a competitive procurement process and incentives are created to use and produce it. "The positive solar aspects of the bill are hard to ignore," Duke spokesman Randy Wheelless said in a statement. The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, which championed the original House measure, is unhappy with the final bill. The association hasn't said what it thinks Cooper should do. "We feel we are stuck between a rock and a hard place on this," spokeswoman Allison Eckley wrote in an email. (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/15/17).

## UNC Politics

The head of the body that accredits UNC system schools cautioned the UNC Board of Governors Friday against being too influenced by state legislators and other politicians. But Belle Wheelan, president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, stopped well short of saying she had found any problems at UNC schools caused by political pressure. She told the board the only action she had taken on complaints from the system's Faculty Assembly that legislators had improperly inserted themselves into UNC affairs was speaking to the board Friday during its meeting at UNC Asheville. Wheelan said some of the issues raised by faculty probably occurred "because the board was not aware of our expectations."

The Board of Governors pushed out former system President Tom Ross, a Democrat, in 2015 and replaced him with current President Margaret Spellings, who was Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush. The board's chairman resigned amidst controversy over the switch. System faculty have also raised concerns about legislative initiatives such as dropping tuition at some UNC schools and a move in December, before Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper took office, to take away the power to appoint many trustees at UNC schools from the governor and give it to the General Assembly. The Board of Governors makes policy for the entire UNC system. Most of its members are also appointed by the legislature.

The board is discussing whether to close the UNC Center for Civil Rights, which is funded by donations. The center has drawn the ire of some legislators and a 30 percent budget cut the Senate proposed for the UNC School of Law this year – reduced in the final budget to a 4 percent reduction – has been linked to displeasure over the center.

Stephen Leonard, a political science professor at UNC Chapel Hill and immediate past president of the UNC system's Faculty Assembly, said during an interview Friday that the board has not pushed back against political pressure on the system.

Wheelan's remarks came during a general overview of the accreditation process and her organization's standards.

She said board members appointed by politicians must walk a fine line in their dealings with politicians and encouraged them not to be unduly influenced. "You should be able to say: 'Governor, or senator or representatives, thank you very much. I'll take that under advisement, but I've got a little more information that I need to consider that you perhaps don't have,'" Wheelan told board members. "That's a tough one and I know it's a tough one, but it is what we expect." (Mark Barrett, THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 7/14/17).

## Democrats Rally

North Carolina is "ground zero" for a new national Democratic Party push to win state legislative seats around the country between now and the 2020 census, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Gov. Roy Cooper said Saturday. These Democrats hope to counter gains Republicans secured in 2010, when a wave election swept the GOP into power not just in Congress, but in the legislatures that draw the congressional and legislative maps every 10 years. Draw the maps, decide how voters are divided up using computer software that knows how people tend to vote, and you can draw districts that lean so heavily left or right that the other side has little hope in a general election. "This is the most gerrymandered state in the country," Holder said Saturday, after headlining the North Carolina Democratic Party's annual fundraising dinner.

Former President Barack Obama tapped Holder last year to head the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which will pump millions of dollars into state-house elections between now and the 2021 redistricting. The strategy borrows from the GOP's Project REDMAP, which helped Republicans capture statehouse majorities in 2010. That the efforts mirror each other didn't stop the state GOP from jumping on the Democratic Party's effort as a liberal hack job this week. The party sent out a blast ahead of Holder's visit calling him "the leader of a new ultra liberal group looking to politically influence gerrymandering across the United States." If successful, Holder said, Democrats will not abuse their power like Republicans did. The U.S. Supreme Court has since struck down GOP maps in a number of states, including North Carolina, which is under a court order to redraw statehouse maps ahead of the 2018 legislative elections.

Cooper said he could speak for North Carolina Democrats to promise that, if they take majorities in the state House and Senate, they'll move to a nonpartisan redistricting process that cedes the drawing process, now handled by legislators and the consultants they bring in, to an independent



commission. "You can put it in the bank," Cooper said. How effectively a national fundraising effort can influence local legislative races is an open question.

Project REDMAP said it sank \$1.2 million into North Carolina ahead of the 2010 elections, which saw Republicans take the House and the Senate for the first time in more than 100 years. Former Wake County Republican Rep. Paul Stam, who rose to House majority leader in those elections, said this week that he remembers meeting with emissaries of the national effort, but it was candidate recruitment, grassroots campaigning, targeted spending and the anti-Obama, pro-tea party wave that carried the day.

Republicans hold 74 of 120 seats in the North Carolina House and 34 of 50 Senate seats (with one GOP-leaning seat temporarily vacant), a veto-proof majority that can block Cooper's legislative priorities. The court-ordered redraw should produce "marginally better" maps, Cooper said Saturday, but Stam said it may not hurt Republicans like many think. Ostensibly, these maps will be reworked based on 2010 census numbers, but "we have very smart people who know demographics and where people have moved," he said. (Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 7/15/17).

### **Trump Nominee**

Robert J. "Bobby" Higdon, the former federal prosecutor who played a significant role in bringing former U.S. Sen. John Edwards to trial, has been nominated by the president to be the U.S. attorney for North Carolina's eastern district. The White House issued a news release on Friday announcing President Donald Trump's nominees for chief federal prosecutors in six districts across the country.

Higdon works in the white collar and investigations group at the Williams Mullen law firm, which has offices in Raleigh and Washington, D.C. He moved into private practice after working as a federal prosecutor for 24 years, in two of North Carolina's three federal districts. While in the Eastern District of North Carolina – 44 counties that span from Raleigh to the coast – Higdon led the prosecution of Edwards, whose campaign-finance fraud trial in 2012 resulted in an acquittal on one count and the dismissal of five other charges after a hung jury.

In 2013, when Thomas Walker, a Democrat, was the chief prosecutor in the Eastern District, Higdon was moved from his job as head of the district's criminal division to a senior litigator position after federal appeals court judges issued a blistering rebuke about how prosecutors under Higdon's leadership had withheld evidence and failed to correct trial testimony they knew to be false. Higdon oversaw the work of nearly 30 assistant U.S. attorneys and two dozen special assistant U.S. attorneys prosecuting terrorism, drug, violent and white collar crime cases. He was not one of the prosecutors directly mentioned by the appellate judges.

Higdon, who could not be reached for comment on Friday, declined to discuss the cases or the job change in 2013.

George Holding, a Raleigh Republican who was at the helm of the Eastern District prosecutor's office from September 2006 until summer 2011 before he was elected as a U.S. congressman, was the U.S. attorney for the district when some of the problematic cases occurred. Holding said at the time that his office had a policy of giving a defense team open access to its files, but in some cases, drug cases particularly, prosecutors withheld some information. "One of the problems with open discovery is you can disclose confidential informants and put people in danger," Holding said at the time. But none of the cases discussed in the decision highlighting the questionable prosecutor conduct discussed confidential informants.

Higdon, a graduate of Wake Forest University law school, is a Sunday school teacher, choir member and deacon at Colonial Baptist Church in Cary, according to his bio on the Williams Mullen website. He also is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, an organization of men who are descendants of people who served in the Revolutionary War. (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/14/17).

### **School Powers**

A panel of judges has upheld a new North Carolina law shifting many powers to run the public schools away from the State Board of Education to the elected superintendent, saying it stayed within the division of education responsibilities set in the state Constitution. The three judges sided with Superintendent Mark Johnson, ruling the board failed to provide the proof needed to strike down the General Assembly's law last December giving him more control over day-to-day

operations. The law in part also let Johnson administer some education funds, oversee charter schools and hire senior-level aides.

The law, approved by the GOP-controlled legislature just before Johnson -- also a Republican -- took office, was the latest pull in a decades-long tug of war over the balance of power between the superintendent and the board, whose voting members are appointed by the governor. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper also was about to take office when the law was approved.

Johnson said the changes upheld in the ruling released Friday provide more transparency to the public and educators about who is responsible for the Department of Public Instruction. "For too long, the lack of clarity about DPI leadership has fostered a system of non-accountability," Johnson said in a statement, and "I look forward to, belatedly, working for more and better change at DPI."

The State Board of Education challenged the law, pointing to constitutional language that it "shall supervise and administer the free public school system" and "make all needed rules and regulations" related to that responsibility. The superintendent, the state Constitution says, is the "secretary and chief administrative officer" of the board.

A portion of the law gave the superintendent "direction and control" for all matters related to the school system's "direct supervision and administration." The superintendent and state attorneys defending the law argued the board's powers are still subject to General Assembly laws. In their opinion, the judges wrote that the law doesn't violate the Constitution because the board is still tasked with supervising and administering the schools and the superintendent remains subject to the board's general oversight.

The law "is not such a pervasive transfer of powers and authorities so as to transfer the inherent powers of the state board to supervise and administer the public schools, nor does it render the state board an 'empty shell,'" the opinion dated July 6 read. Many other changes in the law, the judges wrote, simply transfer day-to-day operations and "appear to fall well within the constitutional authority of the General Assembly to define specifics" of that relationship.

The panel -- Superior Court Judges James Ammons, Donald Bridges and Martin McGee -- blocked enforcement of the ruling and law through August because of potential appeals and requests to stay its order longer.

Bob Orr, a private lawyer and former state Supreme Court justice representing the state board, said Friday evening that he and the panel would discuss the ruling next week before deciding on any appeal. There were aspects of the opinion "that we certainly strongly disagree with," Orr said in an interview.

Senate leader Phil Berger, a Rockingham County Republican, said in a news release he was "pleased the court recognized the constitutionality of the law and that our superintendent should be able to execute the platform voters elected him to do." North Carolina is one of about a dozen states in which voters elect a state schools superintendent. The position has been relatively weak in North Carolina compared to the board. (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/14/17).

## **Hired**

Greg Gebhardt has left his position as an aide to House Rules Chairman David Lewis and is now a lobbyist. Gebhardt, who has worked as a policy advisor at the legislature since 2013, was named director of government affairs and community relations at Cypress Creek Renewables. The company has developed solar farms in 15 states. Gebhardt is also a member of the Army National Guard, and he ran unsuccessfully last year to be the N.C. Republican Party's representative to the Republican National Committee. (THE INSIDER, 7/17/17).

## **Rowan Prayer**

If Rowan County commissioners decide to appeal Friday's court ruling, the outcome of their prayer lawsuit could be affected by a nearly identical case in Michigan. On Friday, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, ruled unconstitutional Rowan County's prayer practices from 2007 to 2013. In what's known as a rehearing en banc, all 15 active judges for the 4th Circuit heard oral arguments and issued a ruling in the case. Last year, a smaller panel of judges for the 4th Circuit ruled that Rowan County's prayers were constitutional.

Now, Rowan County commissioners are faced with a decision -- appeal to the Supreme Court or accept the most recent ruling. Two county commissioners -- Craig Pierce and Mike Caskey -- have

already stated their support for an appeal. At least one more commissioner would need to vote for an appeal. Even a vote by county commissioners, however, doesn't guarantee the Supreme Court will choose to hear the case. A Supreme Court choice not to hear the case would effectively uphold the 4th Circuit's ruling.

University of North Carolina law professor Bill Marshall said the court might not choose to hear Rowan County's case because of the relatively recent decision in *Greece v. Galloway*, which has been mentioned frequently in Rowan County's case. The case, decided in 2014, focused on whether a town in New York could allow volunteer chaplains to open meetings with a prayer. The author of the 4th Circuit's majority opinion -- Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson -- is another reason the court could decline to hear the case, Marshall said. "Judge Wilkinson is one of the most respected jurists in the country," Marshall said. "He was at the top of everybody's list as the Republican nominee to the Supreme Court. He is very thoughtful, very scholarly and very distinguished. I think the court might give more deference to him than they might give to any other judge."

In one scenario, however, Rowan County's chances of being heard in the U.S. Supreme Court may increase. That scenario involves two federal circuit courts issuing different rulings about the same matter -- a circuit split. While Rowan County's case worked its way through federal courts on the East Coast, a nearly identical case concerning county commissioners in Michigan worked its way through another set of courts.

In Jackson County, Michigan, county commissioners' prayer practices are also being challenged. Identical to Rowan County from 2007 to 2013, the Jackson County commissioners chairman asked attendees to rise, according to court documents. Then, a commissioner delivered a prayer. As is the case in Rowan County, commissioners in the Michigan county are all Christian. Earlier this year, a three-judge panel in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unconstitutional Jackson County's prayer practices. Just like Rowan County's case, the 6th Circuit held a rehearing en banc for the Jackson County, Michigan, case. The 6th Circuit's rehearing en banc occurred in June. "We have no way of knowing, but if the 6th Circuit reaches the opposite decision on a nearly identical legal matter -- one court of appeals ruling one way and a different court ruling a different way -- that would be a major factor," said Mike Berry, an attorney at the First Liberty Institute. Berry's organization is listed as co-counsel on the 4th Circuit and 6th Circuit cases. Catawba College political professor Michael Bitzer said a circuit split would be more than just a factor. Bitzer says it would increase the chances of Rowan County's case being accepted by the Supreme Court. The possibility of appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court already has one prominent supporter -- Rep. Richard Hudson, R-8. Shortly after the 4th Circuit's ruling on Friday, Hudson encouraged Rowan County commissioners to appeal. "I am incredibly disappointed with today's decision that tramples on our First Amendment rights to religious liberty and freedom of speech," Hudson said in an emailed statement. "I encourage Rowan County to take this matter to the Supreme Court. I will continue to stand with them to protect religious liberty and defend our right to pray." (Josh Bergeron, THE SALISBURY POST, 7/16/17).

## **Redistricting Input**

The state NAACP has asked the federal judges tasked with deciding whether to order special legislative elections this year to give the civil-rights organization a voice in the matter, too. And if the request is granted, the organization wants the judges to consider appointing a special master to draw new maps to correct the illegal racial gerrymanders that have been used for the last six years to elect General Assembly members. It also asked the three-judge panel to block the lawmakers from enacting any new legislation until corrective maps have been approved. The requests were included in documents filed in federal court this week outlining the NAACP's interest in supporting the voters whose lawsuit led to the finding that 28 of the 170 North Carolina legislative districts are illegal racial gerrymanders.

The questions of how quickly new district lines will be drawn to correct the maps and whether elections in the changed districts will be held this year or next are back before the three federal judges who ruled that the Republican-led legislature had unconstitutionally weakened the power of black voters in North Carolina.

A hearing is set for July 27 and the judges have instructed the attorneys to be ready to argue for and against special elections this year and say what timeline the court should set for redrawing maps. (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/14/17).

## **GenX Monitoring**

State officials say they've lowered the amount of an unregulated chemical in wastewater that's been dumped in the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. The state departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services said Friday they had lowered the amount of the GenX chemical allowed before drinking water is assumed to be a health risk. The Cape Fear River is the source of drinking water for hundreds of thousands in eastern North Carolina. Test samples collected three years ago detected the chemical in the water supply at levels considered to pose a low risk to humans. There's not much data about the relatively new chemical's health effects. Chemours, a Wilmington, Delaware-based chemical company with a plant near Fayetteville, has cut its discharges of the compound.(WILMINGTON STARNEWS, 7/15/17).

## **Wastewater Cleanup**

Crews are trying to clean up a wastewater overflow in a North Carolina river. City of Charlotte officials tell local media outlets that about 180,000 gallons of wastewater reached a tributary to Sugar Creek in the Catawba River Watershed. Crews have been trying to repair a break in a 21-inch sewer main pipe. Catawba Riverkeeper Sam Perkins says the spill is concerning for anyone planning to hang out by the water this weekend. He is urging anyone planning to use the river to paddle downstream of where Sugar Creek hits the Catawba. City officials say it is impossible to determine the exact cause of the spillage.(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/15/17).

## **Hospital Bankruptcy**

Leaders of a rural hospital in North Carolina are citing competition with larger hospitals and a lack of Medicaid expansion as reasons for filing for bankruptcy. Multiple media outlets report Morehead Memorial Hospital in Eden filed earlier this week for Chapter 11 bankruptcy as it tries to reorganize its finances. Hospital leaders say the competition with larger hospitals has led to a decline in the number of patients it treats. In addition, Morehead President and Chief Operating Officer Dana Weston says Medicaid reimbursements have declined. State lawmakers voted not to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Novant Health Inc. manages the hospital, which remains open. The hospital says no employees are facing a job cut and the management team will stay in place.(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/14/17).

## **Partnership**

In an effort to reduce cost, diminish risks, and capitalize on strengths, Onslow County, Camp Lejeune, and the City of Jacksonville joined together with ink and promises Thursday. As part of an agreement and partnership plan, three memorandums were signed between the groups. Among those present and signing was the commander of the base, Col. Michael Scalise. "Your presence here sends a message about the importance of what we're about to do," Scalise said to the officials and experts sitting at the tables.

In addition to reducing cost and risk and enhancing strengths, Scalise said the partnership would improve the relationships between the agencies. These agreements will allow the Onslow County and Jacksonville communities to deliver services more efficiently, said Jacksonville Mayor Sammy Phillips.

The first paper signed was a Geographic Information Services Memorandum of Agreement, which will allow Camp Lejeune to use the aerial images collection combined by the state and local governments, Director of Public Affairs Nat Fahy said in a speech at the ceremony.

Two memorandums of understanding were also signed, one for the library and one for education K-12. Military children face difficulties when transitioning to different schools and the library memorandum will help establish a bond between Camp Lejeune and the Onslow County Library System that will offer specialized educational resources and counseling for these families, Fahy said.

The third signing was for education, a partnership between Camp Lejeune, New River and Onslow County Schools. The Education K-12 Memorandum of Understanding will allow the aforementioned agencies to work together on increasing the education of the challenges faced by children of military families as well as the U.S. Marine Corps mission, Fahy said.(Amanda Thames, THE (Jacksonville) DAILY NEWS, 7/14/17).



## Island Evacuated

Authorities evacuated the new island off Cape Point on Friday morning after a possible unidentified military object was found lying on the sand. The dark, encrusted piece looks like it could be unexploded military ordnance, said Dorothy Hester, Dare County spokeswoman. A person on the island reported the object to Hatteras Island Rescue Squad early Friday morning. No one was allowed on the island until it could be removed or determined harmless, she said.

The National Park Service and the Coast Guard set up a 1-mile perimeter around the island on land and water, said Chief Ranger Boone Vandzura. Cape Point was temporarily closed to the public. A Navy explosive ordnance disposal unit from Hampton Roads responded, Vandzura said. The team determined it was World War II training ordnance and took it away.

The large sandbar, known as Shelly Island, grew rapidly off Cape Point in the late spring to be about a mile long and several hundred yards wide. The island's formation drew international attention, with on-scene reports from major television news shows. Visitors have found loads of perfectly shaped shells deposited there by the ocean. An inlet, populated with sharks and rays, runs between the point and the island. Authorities have warned about crossing the rapid current with care. (Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, 7/14/17).

## White House Visit

A North Carolina soft drink is being featured at a White House effort to focus on products made in the U.S.A. Multiple media organizations report representatives of Salisbury-based Cheerwine will join President Donald Trump and manufacturers from each state on Monday. The White House effort seeks to encourage other companies to manufacture their products in the United States. Cherry-flavored Cheerwine marks its 100th anniversary this year and the company is owned by the founder's great-grandsons. The soda often is used in southern recipes such as barbecued chicken. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/16/17).

## Flying Squirrels

A North Carolina researcher is part of a team that has discovered North America's newest mammal. Media outlets report University of North Carolina Wilmington associate biology professor Brian Arbogast is part of a team that recently discovered there are three, not two, species of flying squirrels in North America. Arbogast and a graduate student assembled a large sample of specimens from the Pacific Coast and used genetic markers to compare them to the northern flying squirrel. This new species, Humboldt's flying squirrel, is the continent's newest mammal. Humboldt's flying squirrels are a cryptic species, meaning it looks physically identical to another but is genetically different. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/15/17).

## Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **Bold** are new listings.

**LB:** Legislative Building

**LOB:** Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

### Thursday, Aug. 3

- Noon | House convenes in session.
- Noon | Senate convenes in session.

## N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

### Monday, July 17



- 11 a.m. | The Executive Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).
- **1 p.m. | The Economic Investment Committee meets to consider one or more economic development proposals, N.C. Commerce Executive Board Room, fourth floor, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh. Contact: Hannah Harrill, [919-814-4612](tel:919-814-4612).**

### **Tuesday, July 18**

- 1:30 p.m. | The Accountability Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

### **Wednesday, July 19**

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Plant Conservation Board meets, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Watauga County Center Conference, Room 971 W. King St., Boone.

### **Thursday, July 20**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

### **Monday, July 24**

- 1 p.m. | The Economic Investment Committee meets to consider one or more economic development proposals, N.C. Commerce Executive Board Room, fourth floor, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh. Contact: Hannah Harrill, [919-814-4612](tel:919-814-4612).

### **Tuesday, July 25**

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 1st Floor Hearing Room, Room 131 (Albemarle Building), 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.
- 1 p.m. | The Board Development Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

### **Thursday, July 27**

- 9 a.m. | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

### **Monday, July 31**

- 12 p.m. | The N.C. State Board of Elections hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, State Board of Elections Office, 441 N. Harrington St., Raleigh.

### **Tuesday, Aug. 1**

- 12 p.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

### **Thursday, Aug. 3**

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).

### **Wednesday, Aug. 16**

- 10:30 a.m. | The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Wake Technical Community College-Public Safety Training Center, 321 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh.

### **Thursday, Aug. 17**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

### **Wednesday, Sept. 13**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

### **Thursday, Sept. 14**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

### **Thursday, Sept. 21**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

### **Thursday, Sept. 28**

- 10:30 a.m. | The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meets, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Wilmington District Office, 127 North Cardinal Dr. Extension, Wilmington.

### **Thursday, Oct. 5**

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

### **Thursday, Oct. 19**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

### **Wednesday, Nov. 8**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

### **Thursday, Nov. 9**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

#### **Thursday, Nov. 16**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

#### **Thursday, Dec. 7**

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

#### **Thursday, Dec. 21**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

#### **Wednesday, Jan. 10**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

#### **Thursday, Jan. 11**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

### **N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality**

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

#### **Tuesday, July 18**

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Fayetteville Technical Community College Cumberland Hall Auditorium at 2201 Hull Rd., Fayetteville.

#### **Thursday, July 20**

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Nash Community College Brown Auditorium at 522 N. Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount.

#### **Thursday, Aug. 3**

- 2 p.m. | The state Department on Air Quality holds public hearing concerning incorporation of 2015 Ozone Ambient Standard and Readoption, 2145 Suttle Ave., Charlotte.

### **N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule**



Dobbs Building  
430 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

**Monday, July 17**

- Staff Conference

**Monday, July 24**

- Staff Conference

**Monday, July 31**

- Staff Conference

**UNC Board of Governors**

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development  
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in BOLD**)  
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

**Tuesday, Aug. 1**

- 12 p.m. | The Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill.

**Friday, Sept. 8**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

**Friday, Nov. 3**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

**Friday, Dec. 15**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

**Friday, Jan. 26, 2018**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

**Friday, March 23, 2018**

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

**Friday, May 25, 2018**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

## Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

### **Sunday, July 30**

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association host 81st Annual NC School of Banking, William & Ida Friday Center, UNC-Chapel Hill. The conference concludes on Aug. 4.

### **Monday, Aug. 14**

- No time given | U.S. Small Business Administration deadline for businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in North Carolina to submit disaster loan applications for damages caused by the severe storms on May 30.

### **Friday, Sept. 8**

- No Time Given | The 77th Annual National Folk Festival opens in Downtown Greensboro for its third year in the state. Contact: Kaitlin Smith, [336-373-7523](tel:336-373-7523), ext 246.

### **Sunday, Sept. 24**

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Young Bankers Conference, Crowne Plaza Asheville Resort, Asheville.

### **Wednesday, Oct. 11**

- 10 a.m. | The Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association hold Technical Workshop and Forum, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, 10000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach.

### **Monday, Nov. 6**

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Women in Banking Conference, Renaissance Charlotte Southpark, 5501 Carnegie Blvd., Charlotte.

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